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Toronto the not so good

by Will Nicholls

Toronto has a lot going for it. Canada's largest city rightly considers itself the cultural, entertainment and financial capital of Canada. Officially, the city is proud of its cultural diversity, but increasingly, that pride is being questioned by Aboriginal Peoples across Canada.

One of the early warning signs was the way Gabriel Roberts, an Ojibway, was treated during the G20 summit in 2010 when he was arrested trying to pick up a cigarette butt. Roberts, a paraplegic, was arrested because police thought he was trying to pop a tire.

Gabriel remembers the 30 hours he spent in jail. After Toronto police confiscated his wheelchair "I had to lay there on the floor, shit and piss on myself." He was also denied his medication. Eventually he was released without charge. After winning a human rights complaint he received financial compensation from the force.

It isn't an isolated incident. Unfortunately, according to one-time street worker Doug Hatlem, this type of abuse appears to be escalating. He's watched police ticket Aboriginals for drinking in public while ignoring nearby "white people sitting down on a bench drinking." Hatlam said he's noted dozens of assaults on homeless people by police over the last seven years and most of them were Aboriginal.

Homeless men interviewed by APTN say Toronto police are racist bullies and worse. "They really like to pick on Native people here in the city," Greg Spoon told APTN. "If they can get away with it, give you a shot in the head, they will give you a shot in the head."

While some complain of being spit on, kicked and punched, those complaints never seem to get a hearing.

Social workers and lawyers for the Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto (ALST) have heard a lot of these stories. As ALST's Emily Hill told APTN, "As a lawyer I don't expect every case that walks in the door with

someone alleging misconduct is necessarily going to support that finding after an investigation, but what I find troubling is that none of them do."

Given Toronto's pride in its city it's amazing nothing has been done to date. Especially when you consider what is happening in other municipalities. The city of Edmonton is projected to have the largest urban population of Aboriginal people in Canada. As a result, their police force has created an Aboriginal relations unit to build partnerships and relationships with the community.

Historically, said Edmonton Police Chief Rod Knecht, Canadian police were ill-equipped to respond to the increase in an urban Aboriginal population. Staff Sgt. Dan Jones heads up the new department and sees part of his job as educating officers about Aboriginal culture, the history of colonization, residential schools, segregation and the impact such issues have had on the community. This will help to break down discrimination and racism among the police force, said Jones.

Lewis Cardinal, co-chair of the Aboriginal commission on human rights and justice, welcomed the new unit. In the past, he said, the relationship between Aboriginal people and city police had not been positive and many didn't feel the police were their friend.

"The perception from our people is that racism is still practiced within the police force. They don't feel that the police are interested in protecting Aboriginal people," Cardinal said.

According to national statistics, an Aboriginal person is twice as likely to be the victim of a violent assault. Police are supposed to prevent violence and not add to the problem. Perhaps it's time Toronto follows in the footsteps of other Canadian cities and forms a unit to deal with this problem before it's too late. Racism among those who protect us should never be tolerated.

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Peter Karl Youngren, Donald Nicholls, Jamie Allison, Gordon Hudson

photo by Will Nicholls

The hunter and the beast

by Joshua Iserhoff



I've got to say that autumn is one of my most anticipated seasons of the year. Moose break had begun. This is when I am at my best as a camouflaged Cree wandering around Shashikan. I feel 100% a man. Spending time with Dad is also an opportunity for me to hear stories from his childhood and it seems that almost every "listening spot" tells a story.

I love these moments. I believe that these times will some day soothe me when my Father enters his golden sunset. I love moose break! I love the fact that we, the Cree, have cultural breaks and I especially am proud of the people who actually go out into land and not into the land of Disney! To each their own.

Moose fever will be sweeping Eeyou/Eenou Istchee by the time this is published and I am pretty sure that some of you would have indulged yourselves on Oujad. Not my favourite – I am a filet-mignon-type of guy, and so is my friend Judy's son, Sage, who also loves the finer things in life.

Killing a moose boosts your testosterone by an insane amount. You position yourself like a Green Giant over the dead beast and you think to yourself: "You da man!" Basking in the moment is short as you hear your dad say, "Cut the throat, ear to ear, son!"

This part always makes me emotional. I don't know why but I try to channel my ancestors to give me a heart of great courage. But that always fails, except I am always graced with a

whiskeychan! I do at times shed a tear if my kill is a smaller game. Mother always said I watched too many cartoons as a child. Hey, we're all made different. Cutting a whole moose or two is something else and transporting a one-ton leg is no fun for my delicate waif look.

Seriously! This kills my Green Giant moments all the time! Dismembering a moose is a sacred method that one should master in order to become a true Cree hunter. Am I there yet? After countless moose under my belt, apparently not yet. This year I will pull out my iPhone 5S and upload images of my kill onto YouTube. This way, my avid loving followers can also learn with me with just a click of a button.

As I write I am in Waskaganish at the Elders Council's "Waptiwaataou Nishiiyuu Kishchuwin" gathering. I must say throughout the day I have heard that we must keep our Cree cultural traditions alive. Each Elder was encouraged to pass on the knowledge, the expertise, and the wisdom to our Cree youth. Each father and mother was encouraged to do so as well. Teaching a child their history, the culture from the beginning they will never depart from it. They will remember it.

My father is instilling in me what his dad instilled in him. I am grateful for the great moose. I am grateful for our land, but most of all I am grateful for these cultural breaks that bring my family closer, especially for Dad and me. Enjoy these moments my friends, we are not promised for tomorrow!

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Diagnosis and intervention

Quebec's first FASD clinic is coming to Eeyou Istchee

by Jesse Staniforth



After years of planning and a Memorandum of Understanding signed at last year's Annual General Assembly, the first Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Diagnostic and Intervention Clinic in the province of Quebec is coming to Eeyou Istchee. The Grand Council of the Crees, in partnership with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services (CBHSSJB) and the Cree School Board (CSB), announced the creation of the clinic September 9, International FASD Awareness Day.

"A LOT OF THE KIDS GO THROUGH LIFE THINKING, 'SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH ME. I WANT TO BE LIKE THE OTHER KIDS. I KNOW I'M NOT. I DON'T KNOW WHY.'"

Because FASD by definition is a spectrum disorder – meaning it involves many different disorders related to the mothers having consumed alcohol during pregnancy – it is very difficult both to diagnose and to treat. For that reason, the new FASD clinic will consist of a group of doctors and caregivers, including a pediatrician, a neuropsychologist, a speech-and-language psychologist, an occupational therapist and the team coordinator.

"In order to diagnose, you need a team of professionals. It's not just one diagnosis," said Evi Goudreault, coordinator for Special Needs Services to the Cree Health Board. "It's a clinic of professionals who are going to be travelling

to the northern Cree communities and doing the diagnoses, but also putting in the care plans for the individuals who will be diagnosed."

The team includes professionals based in Montreal as well as those who live in the communities of Eeyou Istchee. As the clinic moves from community to community, the doctors and caregivers will study the cases together to determine their actual diagnoses.

Goudreault says that the clinic will visit each of the communities once a year for periods of several days, dur-

ing which the clinic will be able to see several children.

"Right now we have certain children who have been identified as being at risk for having FASD and the other diagnoses," she said. "So what we're doing is we have the more critical children we'll want to see and diagnose right at first. Within the year, it's hoped that we'll have made one visit per community. It depends on the communities. And we'll definitely have to go back around to the communities again in the following years."

However, Goudreault underlines, the clinic will do more than simply provide diagnoses.

"We didn't want to start diagnosing before we had some means of supporting the children and the families," she said. "Our main priority is supporting them, not just labelling them. We want to help to give them services that'll help them achieve their full potential."

Following diagnosis, team leaders will remain in each community to work with members of the Cree School Board and the Cree Health Board in providing continuing care to the children already treated by the clinic.

FASD affects roughly 1% of children in communities all across North America, both urban and rural, Indigenous or not. Its effects include behavioural problems and learning disabilities that later in life can lead to difficulties finding and keeping work and housing, confronting day-to-day problems, and staying out of legal trouble. By helping diagnose young people early on, the FASD clinic will be able to provide children with treatments that help smooth their path in the world by illuminating for them the nature of their disability.

"Children who are diagnosed [with FASD] feel relief in knowing that it's not their fault, and that there's something that can be put in place to support them," Goudreault said. "A lot of the kids go through life thinking, 'Something's wrong with me. I want to be like the other kids. I know I'm not. I don't know why.' [A diagnosis of FASD] gets them to understand that their brains work differently. They learn strategies to adapt."

The clinic will also be useful for parents, teachers and caregivers, Goudreault says, because too often symptoms of FASD get written off as simple misbehaviour, or leave parents confused about why children are acting the way they are. Diagnosis and treat-

ment, she says, includes explanations of the different disabilities related to FASD and provides parents with strategies for dealing with FASD-based behaviour.

"One example is sensory integration problems," she said. "[Children suffering from FASD] hear a lot of noises, they see a lot of visual things. It's over-stimulating to their brains, and they just can't sit still. Understanding why they behave that way enables to better understand

those behaviours and accept the fact that the child is not misbehaving because he's a bad child, but because he has a certain amount of brain damage due to the alcohol."

While in some cases, children can take medication for FASD-related Attention-Deficit Disorder, Goudreault points out that most of the treatment for FASD has to do with changing behaviours and approaches.

"The child will live with FASD for the rest of his life," she said. "It's an adaptation that they have to go through – teachers have to adapt their strategies with these children, parents have to adapt as well. The kids will have it for life, but it doesn't mean they will have disability that will prevent them from functioning. They can function, and using the best practices and the better strategies, they can function much better."

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Truth and reconciliation at home

Chisasibi hosts healing event for residential school survivors

news

by Amy German

The healing starts at home. Inspired by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings last spring, a Chisasibi committee organized a home-grown program September 5-8 to help local residential school survivors confront and heal the pain of their childhood ordeal.

The committee ran groups at the local auditorium and the event culminated with two special ceremonies at the former sites of the residential Catholic and Anglican schools on Fort George Island.

According to volunteer Ancita Mae Allain rainy weather interrupted plans to host the program at Fort George Island because the barge to the island wasn't running.

"On the first day there were probably only about 20 people who showed up. But as the days went by, more and more came. In the end, we had between 75-100 people who showed up at that feast on the island," said Allain.

The local meeting was run like the national events held by the TRC, said Allain. The group provided a forum for survivors and their families to discuss what had happened to them and provided a group of health support workers for those who



Fort George Residential school

According to Nellie House, who also helped in the planning of the event, the local gathering was long overdue.

"This is something that I have wanted to see happen for so many, many years because the way our community is with the high rates of alcohol and cocaine abuse, sexual abuse and other abuses. I have always felt that this is where it all came from. Residential school was the root. In order for things to change in this community, this was what we needed to do and now we are doing it. This is our first local residential-school healing gathering for the community and it is a very good thing," said House.

Once the weather cleared, participants made their way to Fort George Island for what House described as a special releasing ceremony at the ruins of the two schools. Survivors were asked to write letters to the Creator or God, expressing how they saw those schools and their first days spent there. The letters were then burned at the respective sites.

According to Allain, it was the Sunday event that had the largest participation as entire families returned to these sites with multiple generations ranging from those who had attended the schools to their most recent descendants.

"At the site the children were running around and playing. You could just tell by the looks on these people's faces that they were happy to see this, these children laughing and running around in the bushes. This was because they were not allowed to do that when they were there in those areas as children," said Allain.

The success of this inaugural healing event will lead to, at the very least, annual gatherings to help continue the process of healing for residential school survivors, Allain promised.

"AT THE SITE THE CHILDREN WERE RUNNING AROUND AND PLAYING. YOU COULD JUST TELL BY THE LOOKS ON THESE PEOPLE'S FACES THAT THEY WERE HAPPY TO SEE THIS...THIS WAS BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO DO THAT WHEN THEY WERE THERE IN THOSE AREAS AS CHILDREN."

found themselves in distress as a result of their participation. The meetings were made public and broadcast over the local radio.

This was the result of an initiative by event planners Daisy Bearskin and Daisy Ratt, who believed that these stories needed to be out in the open.

After the first speakers, Emily and Larry Wash, made their statements about the impact that residential school had on their families, Allain said other individuals began to trickle in, adding their names to the speakers' list and divulging their own traumas from residential schooling.



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photo by Melvin Georgekish



Melvin Georgekish comparing his own foot to a footprint found in the woods near Wemindji

Bigfoot sighting near Wemindji causes a stir

The frenzied reaction by the crypto-zoology blogosphere came close to crashing the global internet network in late August after a Cree hunter claimed to have seen a pair of the mythical Bigfoot (Bigfeet? – ed) while driving along a forested area near Wemindji.

Melvin Georgekish knew something was fishy when he saw two sets of red eyes staring back at him from the forest. “You never see wild animals over here that have red eyes,” Georgekish exclaimed. “I’m a hunter and I’ve never seen something like that before.”

After a sleepless night, Georgekish returned the next day to the same spot, where he discovered footprints in the

moss measuring 20 to 35 centimetres long. “You can see the toes, too,” Georgekish said. “It’s like a human foot, but way bigger. Wider, too.”

This recent sighting caused quite a commotion in the community, with some people recounting their own experiences with Bigfoot and supporting Georgekish’s discovery. Others were skeptical. “Even my best friend didn’t believe me at first,” said Georgekish.

On social media sites the scepticism was significantly harsher and vitriolic. “I don’t care to look at Facebook anymore,” Georgekish averred. In fact, many people refuse to report their crypto-zoological encounters for fear of being stigmatized, which may reduce the number of sightings.

Many blogs speculated that forest fires were behind the Bigfoot sightings as they are spotted while escaping the inferno or were on the move due to the loss of habitat. The area has seen many forest fires this season, and one in particular, caused by lightning, was sparked only almost kilometres from where Georgekish says he spotted the Sasquatches.

Hotel du Fort closing its doors

Renowned as a classy, independent boutique establishment, Montreal’s Hotel du Fort identified its mission to provide clients with a “home away from home” for the past 21 years.

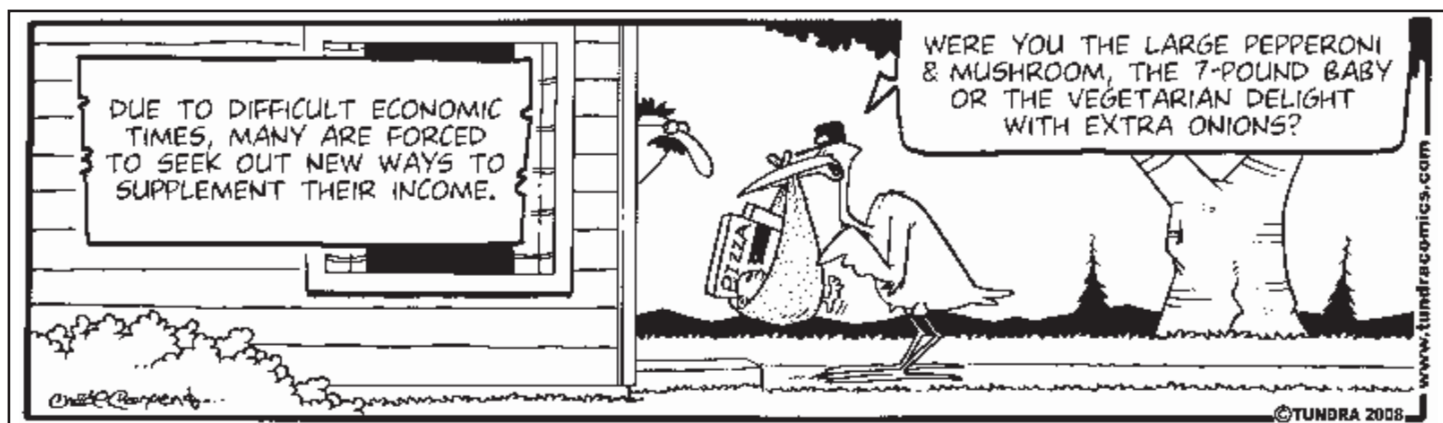
Sadly, the hotel has announced it will close its doors November 1 after dedicated service to many celebrity guests over the years, including many from the Cree Nation.

“We always strive to go over and above what our guests can expect because we know what they like,” said Sophie Richardson, the hotel’s assistant director of sales.

The hotel’s staff agonized over the painful decision for years and finally made the announcement “with heavy hearts” in early September.

Hotel management extended its thanks to all past and present guests.

Comic strip courtesy of Tundra Comics: www.tundracomics.com





GOLFING FOR GREATNESS

Crees tee off in Mont-Tremblant to help students

by Amy German





From living it up on the links to getting down to some old-school country music, about 400 Crees made the pilgrimage to Mont-Tremblant for the 4th annual Cree Nation Achievement Awards Annual Fundraiser just before the Labour Day weekend.

While the awards take place every second year during the Mont-Tremblant festivities, the annual golf tournament and extravaganza went off without a hitch and featured major names from worlds of hockey, entertainment and the James Bay business scene.

According to Diane Reid from the Cree Nation Achievement Awards Foundation

(CNAAF), the organization has raised \$150,560 to date.

Money raised at this event fund the following year's awards gala and the great prizes bestowed on Eeyou Istchee's top academic achievers.

Earlier this year the foundation presented academic awards of excellence to various secondary students, including iPads and laptop computers, at the Annual General Assembly of the Crees in Wemindji.

While the weather was grey and humid out on the greens of the Le Diable and Le Géant courses, the evening storms on August 30 couldn't put a damper on the fine evening of festivities that featured

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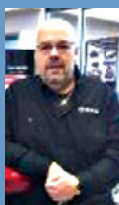
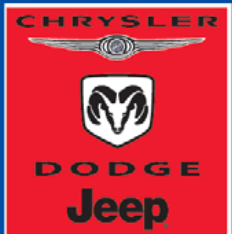
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speaking engagements by hockey greats Yvan Cournoyer and Steve Duchesne, music from Hee-Haw's Gordon Tapp and the homegrown talents of the Daryl S Hester Band and Myriam Hasni.

"We used some high-profile names to attract people to the event," said Reid.

Cree dignitaries included former Grand Chief Ted Moses, now the President of the Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance, and recently elected Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark.

In his speech Moses outlined the economic relationship the Crees have with the Mont-Tremblant business community. He acknowledged Serge Larivière of the Mont-Tremblant Airport, who is currently working on an air-access project to bring Mont-Tremblant clientele to Eeyou Istchee in partnership with the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association (COTA) and Eeyou Istchee Tourism.

"I applaud entrepreneurs across our beautiful regions who are working very hard to improve touristic offerings and therefore this new relationship can only enrich both our regions," said Moses. "Just recently, these two Cree tourist organizations along with their regional partner, Tourisme Baie-James, met with Minister of Tourism Pascal Bérubé to pave the way and set a table of discussions related to the Le Nord pour tous, the development plan north of the 49th parallel."

Moses reviewed Cree political achievements, from the historic 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement to the Paix des Braves to the recent New Governance Agreement.

"Despite all of these advancements, we haven't given up on our furs and our traditions," he noted. "But we recognize our future is within an integrated economy, and now we have the skilled and competent workforce to develop infrastructure and services," he said.

"There was a great lesson that our first Grand Chief, the late Billy Diamond, knew well. As a youngster, he watched the floatplanes that flew into the coastal villages that would one day be transformed into a company called Air Creebec. Today the Cree Nation operates one of the largest independent regional air transit carriers in Canada."

Highlighting other Cree business success stories, Moses mentioned Kepa Transport, Cree Express and Petronor before turning his focus towards the future and the impacts of the new of fibre-optic networks in James Bay. The lesson, he emphasized, is that Eeyou Istchee is open for business.

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark was on hand to talk about the role of the CNAAF, the changes that have been made within the association and the impact the foundation will have on the Cree Nation.

Mark announced the addition of a new lifetime achievement award cate-

gory as well as the creation of male and female categories for the sports awards. Among the awards for academic excellence there will be a new category for professional certification. In the arts category there will now be separate nominations for performing arts, dance and music.

"The enhancement of the achievement awards is to link them with the Aboriginal national initiatives, such as Indspire, previously the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards. Securing major sponsors is essential in order to solicit high-profile guests who can be an inspiration and role models for our youth," Mark said.

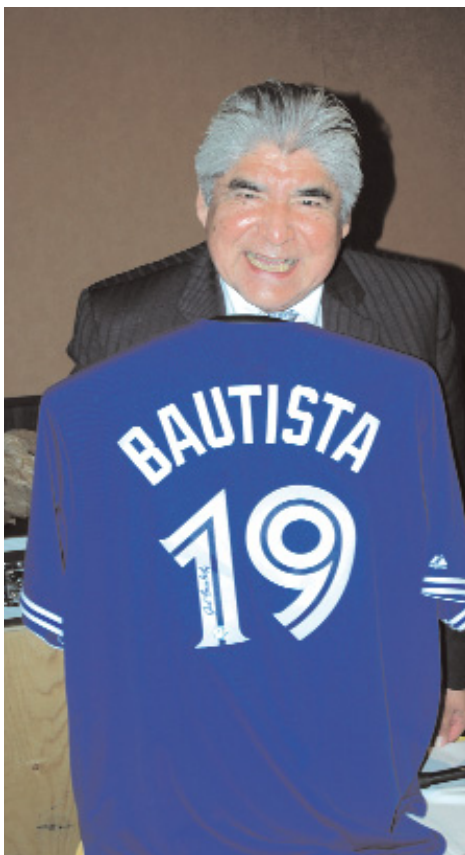
"If we are to achieve grander things in the celebration of our achievements, every aspect of organization for the achievement awards and for its fundraising must be based on the spirit of volunteerism from the business community at large."

For hockey fans of a certain age, however, the evening's highlight came when Habs legend Yvan Cournoyer took the stage.

Having been the hit of the event two years ago, Cournoyer said he jumped at the opportunity to golf and celebrate with such "nice people."

Cournoyer began by wishing a happy birthday to his golfing partner, the CRA's Eddy Diamond. Then he told folks how fortunate he felt to have led a life in which he was able to do what he loved most before taking questions from the floor.





“THERE WAS A GREAT LESSON THAT OUR FIRST GRAND CHIEF, THE LATE BILLY DIAMOND, KNEW WELL. AS A YOUNGSTER, HE WATCHED THE FLOATPLANES THAT FLEW INTO THE COASTAL VILLAGES THAT WOULD ONE DAY BE TRANSFORMED INTO A COMPANY CALLED AIR CREEBEC. TODAY THE CREE NATION OPERATES ONE OF THE LARGEST INDEPENDENT REGIONAL AIR TRANSIT CARRIERS IN CANADA.”





After telling the crowd Toe Blake was his favourite coach, Cournoyer revealed how he got his “Roadrunner” nickname.

“It was (Blake) who called me the Roadrunner. I was in New York one afternoon and I think I had the wind behind me as I was skating really quickly. I had scored a few goals and a reporter from Sports Illustrated came in afterwards and said to me, ‘You were really like the Roadrunner; you were skating so fast that nobody could catch you.’ The story went in as ‘the Roadrunner scored two goals because nobody could catch him.’

“Two weeks after that, back in New York, the same reporter came up

to me and I asked him, what did you do to me? I put that the Roadrunner scored two goals and that nobody could catch him.

“Yes, but now I am going to have to skate fast like that for the rest of my life, I have no choice,” said Cournoyer.

Not everything was about hockey however. Cournoyer was asked what his favourite fight was and whether or not he won. He had a quick quip that had everyone giggling.

“Well, I fought my two sisters and I won, but not against my brother,” he said.

Hockey great Steve Duchesne, for his part, admitted how hard it was to follow his hero. While he did not walk

the lengthy comedic path that his predecessor took, he did talk about his hockey school.

“I grew up in Sept-Îles and was very lucky to have people who helped me and pushed me to get better at hockey and stay focused on that. This is why Guy Charbonneau and I have a hockey school today in Sept-Îles that we have been running for over 30 years,” said Duchesne.

“I would love to offer my service to the Cree Nation and maybe come up to do some hockey schools because at the end of the day, it is really all about the kids. If my story can inspire the kids and help teach them, I can offer my services.”



Fairmont Tremblant Resort

While attending the golf benefit and gala, *the Nation* reporters had the pleasure of staying at the Fairmont Tremblant and received a tour of the hotel’s recent renovations which included upgrades to all 314 of its rooms and suites.

While still incorporating the bringing-the-outdoors-inside theme, the new design swaps out the old-school yellows for contemporary greys and charcoals.

“We have done a ‘soft goods’ renovation and so that means carpets, textiles, wallpaper, paint and some brand essentials like alarm clocks, new shower heads, rounded shower poles to create more space in the shower and we have put glass tops on all of the furniture,” said Johnson.

Other upgrades include large mirrors in every room, reading lights have been added to all of the bed heads for all of those who want to snuggle up in bed with a book or do some late-night knitting.

Between the plush new beds and new décor, staying at this fabulous resort was like being in a Ralph Lauren wonderland.

stornoway

DIAMOND CORPORATION



Stornoway Diamond Corporation is very pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Freddie Mianscum as the Mecheshoo Agreement Implementation Officer.

Mr. Mianscum will be based at Stornoway's Mistissini Office and will represent Stornoway in many growing partnerships with the Crees and the Jamesians, as well as the company's institutional, economic and social partners in Northern Quebec. His local knowledge, and his expertise in the mining sector are a huge asset to the Renard project development team. Mr. Mianscum will participate actively in the implementation of the Mecheshoo Agreement between Stornoway, the Cree Nation of Mistissini and the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) as well as the Declaration of Partnership between Stornoway, Chapais and Chibougamau.

On behalf of the Stornoway team, we would like to welcome Freddy. We wish you much success in our company.

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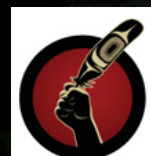
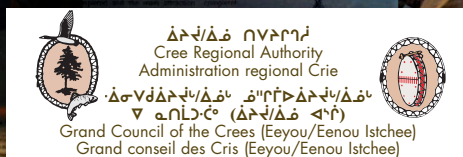
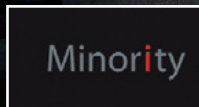
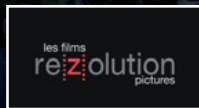
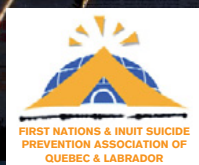
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Mecheshoo Agreement Implementation Officer
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The *Nation* is turning 20! To commemorate this historic occasion, the *Nation* is embarking on a retrospective countdown to its 20th Anniversary in November 2013. In the next 3 issues, the *Nation* flashback will feature some of the *Nation*'s stories, photos and award winning coverage throughout the years, which will be compiled in a 20th collector's edition issue.



1997-1999

The Nation Timeline

Jan. 17, 1997: Crees ignored in James Bay snowmobile trail – Hydro-Québec skips consultation in \$2M plan to connect Radisson and Chibougamau

Feb. 14, 1997: Emotional debate over Royal Commish – Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples conference closes with angry exchange between Toronto journalist Andrew Coyne and National Chief Ovide Mercredi



Andrew Coyne and Ovide Mercredi

Feb. 28, 1997: 150 call on Wemindji chief to resign – Walter Hughboy is a poor leader, petition says, and band is “out of control”

April 11, 1997: – Day of protest – First Nations leaders call

for national protests on April 17 following Canadian Human Right Commission’s scathing annual report

May 9, 1997: Chisasibi gets \$1.8M for airport – Minus electricity, air ambulance and building for Air Creebec staff

May 23, 1997: – Walter Childress inspired by Creator – Texan seeking Cree handout for recycling project speaks of divine inspiration; Wall St. analyst calls plan “a crock”

June 20, 1997: James Bay II back on the table – Hydro proposes Great Whale, Rupert diversions again; Chief Billy Diamond calls this “a different fight,” “a water-rights issue”

July 4, 1997: Bouchard promises to occupy North – First Quebec Premier in 20 years to visit Cree makes bizarre threat to “populate this territory”

Aug. 1, 1997: The truth is down there – Fiery meteor hits 10

miles north of Whapmagoostui, makes house-sized crater

Aug. 15, 1997: Miners abuzz about huge gold finds – Cree lands attract prospectors with province’s biggest haul over three preceding years

Aug. 29, 1997: NASA denies its own existence – Agency says it’s not investigating recent megameteor and hasn’t installed unmanned, logo-emblazoned facility in Chisasibi, despite ample evidence

Sept. 12, 1997: Cree connection in Davis Inlet scandal – Cree Construction tarnished by link to Innu bribery debacle

Nov. 7, 1997: A tribute to my best friend, James A. Shecapio – Beloved member of Cree Nation eulogized following his untimely death, and that of his daughter Amanda, in a car crash

Dec. 19, 1997: Interview, Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come – “The only way to maintain our language is if we intro-

duce it in the schools but more importantly practice it at home”

Jan. 2, 1998: 100 years sober – Santa Claus submits editorial, reveals that he is half Norse, half Inuit (Mrs. Claus is Cree), and a recovering alcoholic

Jan. 16, 1998: Supreme Court shocker – Native oral law is recognized as just as valid as any written law enacted by the government

Feb. 27, 1998: Historic judgment backs Cree rights – The JBNQA is deemed a treaty with constitutional protection; federal and provincial governments argued it was merely a contract

April 24, 1998: Cree land to be flooded – Hydro-Québec doesn't recognize Cree presence at Lake Megiscane, site of its latest project; 1836 Hudson's Bay Co. document proves them wrong

May 22, 1998: Erasmus vague about healing fund – \$350M in reparations promised for residential-school alumni; Crees hope for inclusion in National Aboriginal Healing Foundation

July 3, 1998: Who will be chief? – The Nation's first set of election platforms allows Mistissini's Henry Mianscum, Kenny Loon, Peter Coon and Sam Etapp to weigh-in on forestry, Hydro, roads, community development

July 31, 1998: There is unrest in the forest – Cree Forestry Working Group coordinator Jack Blacksmith explains the lawsuit recently filed against 26 companies, Quebec and the feds

Aug. 14, 1998: Kenny Loon takes the reins in Mistissini – Community welcomes its first “homeless chief,” who weekends

with family in Ottawa, couch-surfs in Mistissini

Sept. 11, 1998: Emotions high at meetings with PQ execs – Nemaska audience hands back a Hydro pamphlet, Band Council



James A. Shecapio

members walk out as Caillé & co. present dam and diversion projects

Oct. 9, 1998: Chiefs decide to suspend forestry case – Cree leadership succumbs to Quebec's alleged threats to withhold promised \$15M MOU funding

Nov. 6, 1998: Ouje-Bougoumou to be finally recognized? – The Cree-Naskapi Commission gets Parliamentary support for band status

Nov. 20, 1998: Profile: Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come – Coon Come's accomplishments are reviewed following his reception of an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Trent University

December 4, 1998: Cree unity emerges over EM-I project – Cree leaders agree to respond as one to Hydro-Québec's proposed Eastmain River dam

Jan. 15, 1999: The Hannah Bay Massacre – George Diamond Sr.

and Louise Diamond tell a tragic 19th-century tale, as passed down from Elders

Feb. 26, 1999: Nunavut stomps on Aboriginal rights? – New territory, coming April 1, includes Cree land and that of other First Nations, without their consent

March 12, 1999: Cree-Quebec relations break down – Quebec withholds funding for basic services due to the Crees' injunction to stop forestry on their land

May 21, 1999: Quebec slammed on diabetes “time bomb” – Crees, who have one of the world's highest diabetes rates, says the province has ignored the health crisis for years

June 18, 1999: Chiefs seek to shut out Grand Chief – Five Cree chiefs inform Coon Come that they, not the Grand Council, will negotiate the Rupert River Hydro project

Aug. 27, 1999: Matthew not running again – Coon Come leaves Grand Chief post after 12 years, six vie for his job; among nine candidates for Deputy Grand Chief is Nation editor William Nicholls

Sept. 10, 1999: Moses and Mukash voted in – Crees vote in record numbers, electing Ted Moses as Grand Chief, Matthew Mukash as Deputy Grand Chief

Oct. 22, 1999: Radio Free Cree: Coming to a radio near u – New regional network to be controlled and programmed by Crees in their own territory

Dec. 31, 1999: Quebec liquidating forests: U.S. group – American lobby group aligns with Crees against province's forest policies

A full partner

Historic land agreement finally ushers Oujé-Bougoumou into the JBNQA

by Akiva Levitas

Oujé-Bougoumou's voyage on the long road to recognition has finally reached its endpoint. Almost two years after the signing of Amendment 22, which confirmed Oujé-Bougoumou's place in the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA), and over 20 years since the Oujé-Bougoumou/Canada Agreement led to the creation of the community, O-J is now a full member of Eeyou Istchee.

The November 7, 2011, agreement has culminated in a land-swap deal between the Cree Nation of Mistissini and the provincial government. The deal was signed in Mistissini September 5 with a ceremony celebrating the two communities' lasting relationship. Grand Chief Mathew Coon Come and Deputy Grand

Chief Rodney Mark as well as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Elizabeth Larouche and Natural Resources Minister Martine Ouellet took part in this historic day.

Through the transfer of lands, the agreement establishes Category IA, IB, and II lands for Oujé-Bougoumou. The area in question corresponds to the land base assigned to Oujé-Bougoumou at its inception in 1992.

"We are very happy today to finally see our journey come to its destination – the fulfillment of the dream of our Elders," said Oujé-Bougoumou Chief Reggie Neeposh. "To have a permanent home and to see Oujé-Bougoumou take its rightful place in the life of Eeyou Istchee is something we have been

working very long and very hard to achieve."

The ceremony began two days earlier when a group of community members from Oujé-Bougoumou embarked on a canoe journey from Lake Wachonici to Oujé-Bougoumou Point. The point had been the traditional campsite during the summer for the people of Oujé-Bougoumou who would come there to collect their rations from the Indian agent and the Hudson Bay Company manager, as well as having marriages performed and celebrating family events.

"Today represents the culmination of our long efforts to bring Oujé-Bougoumou to our table, to see an injustice righted and to acknowledge the



importance of Cree unity for our collective well-being,” Coon Come said.

With the signing of the *Final Agreement Related to the Transfer of Certain Lands from Mistissini to the Government of Québec*, Oujé-Bougoumou is now a full-status member of the JBQNA at the same level of the other eight Cree communities. “On behalf of the community of Mistissini, we are pleased to have been able to do our part in establishing the basis for Oujé-Bougoumou to join the family of Cree communities as an equal and important member,” said Mistissini Chief Richard Shecapio.

In return for 2,300 square kilometres of land, Mistissini will receive a \$20 million infusion to help encourage growth in the tourism and natural resources sector of the community. The agreement marks the settlement of the provincial government’s financial obligation to Mistissini as laid out in in Schedule G of the Paix des Braves Agreement.

“This signing demonstrates that the government honours its commitments and takes to heart the harmonious development of Aboriginal communities in Quebec,” said Larouche. “The community can enjoy renewed socio-economic vitality, which will stimulate the job market for Cree youth in the region. This is an excellent example of an investment in northern development that benefits everyone.”

After many long years of exile and exploitation, the people of Oujé-Bougoumou can now take their rightful place in the Cree nation. With control given back to the community, all nine Cree First Nations in Eeyou Istchee will be working together as equals.





Bouncing into a better world

Women's shelters team up with Lemon Cree in new pilot project

by Amy German

Lemon Cree's Theresa Ducharme is leading a new project to bring her unique brand of healing and fitness courses to women on the run staying in Montreal and Aboriginal women's shelters in Ottawa.

Having worked previously with the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal (NWSM) to offer programming to the staff, Ducharme said her courses are ideal for the shelter's clientele.

"We decided that because the women there are in such crisis, that this would be a great element to add because they are dealing with stuff on an emotional, mental and spiritual level and so the idea was to do something physical that would help in making good decisions and to make them feel better," said Ducharme.

Ducharme and Sheila Swasson conceived the program. Swasson works with the National Aboriginal Circle Against

Family Violence (NACAFV), which funds the project.

"I love this project because it is innovative," explained Swasson. "Bringing a fitness and wellness program into the shelters is not something often you hear about because we are already dealing with so many other issues like the security of these women and issues with their children. There are so many things going on with these women. It's not something that many communities or organizations are doing."

Besides being the president of NACAFV's Board of Directors, Swasson heads an Aboriginal women's shelter in the Gaspésie. The needs of Aboriginal women in shelters are all too familiar to her.

According to Swasson, she is applying for funding to create Lemon Cree programs in the 41 on-reserve women's shelters across Canada. Part of the plan is to offer a week's worth of fitness and

wellness programming to women in need and those who work with them. They also intend to offer certification courses to shelter staff so the programs continue to thrive. Women staying at these shelters could also obtain the certification as an employment opportunity.

While the funding has yet to be approved, the NACAFV has received a green light to bring the pilot to Winnipeg's women in need as a third leg of this tour.

As far as Swasson is concerned, there is a lot to be gained by building the program. "It impacts fitness and health and wellness programs," said Swasson. "This impacts the mind, body and spirit and overall it can really build self-confidence, self-esteem and self-image."

Having spent two hours a day participating in a combination of Ducharme's Bounce Fit and a stretch-and-flex program,

Carrie Martin, the NWSM's Holistic Health Coordinator, was not only seeing the positive spinoffs for herself but also for her clientele at the shelter.

Martin said the four-day intensive event at the Rising Sun Daycare Centre in Montreal was wonderful for the participants and for the community at large as there are so few Aboriginal-specific services of that kind available in the city.

"Of the women who chose to be measured, there were four of us who were measured at the beginning and then again at the end and we all lost inches. There was one woman who even lost eight inches in those four days. That was amazing," said Martin. "If this is something that we could do

because of the incredible transformation she witnesses.

"Not only do you see physical transformation but there is a transformation in their mental state. All of a sudden they look different because their energy is different and their prospects in life also look different," she observed.

"Having suddenly lost five or 10 pounds, they realize that anything is possible. They start to get into that frame of mind where they know that they can take on other things. I see positive and amazing changes in these women."

And, for women in difficulty who may not have control over the other aspects of their lives, getting time to



"NOT ONLY DO YOU SEE PHYSICAL TRANSFORMATION BUT THERE IS A TRANSFORMATION IN THEIR MENTAL STATE. ALL OF A SUDDEN THEY LOOK DIFFERENT BECAUSE THEIR ENERGY IS DIFFERENT AND THEIR PROSPECTS IN LIFE ALSO LOOK DIFFERENT."

on a regular basis, it would have an incredible impact on our community."

If funding is granted, Martin said she would get certified in order to offer the program to her shelter's clientele on a regular basis. The program is not just a much-needed form of escape and a stress release, but, according to Martin, it addresses needs that aren't currently being met.

"When you look at the numbers of women who are coming through the shelter who are dealing with issues like obesity and diabetes on top of everything else, we are doing everything we can to incorporate physical activity into the things that we do. However, the funding doesn't exist to support those programs, so it makes it very difficult to ensure that we have physical activities for them," said Martin.

Ducharme says she gets a lot of satisfaction running these programs

focus on their health provides an excellent platform for transformation.

According to Ducharme, she has seen some of these women find a new hope for change in their lives and feel more capable to take on other challenges. Some expressed a desire to go back to school while others are empowered to take on issues they may have previously avoided.

"We have two Inuit women who are taking the class and both are staying in the shelter. Once again, I can really see their quiet strength. They are strong and have this determination," said Ducharme.

"Another woman told me that when she arrived from Val-d'Or, she literally ran here to get into safety. I look at her now and she has the biggest smile on her face because she's so determined to change her life and it is going to start here. It is just so powerful."



JAMES BAY ROCK

Attawapiskat group shines with debut album

by Jeremy East

In a community plagued by years of negative media attention, Attawapiskat singer/songwriter Adrian Sutherland is hoping his latest project will put a sheen on the reputation of his disadvantaged community.

Formed in 2011, Sutherland's Midnight Shine released its self-titled debut

album earlier this year. The nine-track disc combines Top 40 rhythms with classic guitar tones and a lyrical flair that will make any northerner feel right at home. From the soaring-yet-bluesy opening track *James Bay* onwards, it's clear that Sutherland's upbringing in Attawapiskat

is central to the band's identity and sound.

"We're proud to be a First Nations band and we wanted that to come through in the music," said Sutherland. "As an artist I hope my work can change some of the darker perceptions that the public has of my home."



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From left: Adrian Sutherland, George Gillies, Zach Tomatuk and Stan Louttit

Sutherland fronts the group on vocals, guitar and harmonica. Hailing from Moose Factory are lead guitarist Zach Tomatuk and bassist Stan Louttit, while Fort Albany drummer George Gillies completes the foursome. After years of playing solo, Sutherland gathered the team to open for Canadian rock legends Trooper in Timmins, Ontario. The musicians unanimously dubbed their performance that night as one of the greatest in their careers, and cemented themselves as the band Midnight Shine.

"We realized we had great musical chemistry and it made sense for us to continue together," said Sutherland, adding that the group has remained committed to their work artistically and fiscally, financing the majority of the album's production costs themselves. "I've had to sell some of my guitars and even my TV, but I look at it as an investment," laughed Sutherland.

Recorded over a two-week period at Toronto's Noble Street Studios, Midnight Shine's debut has a relatively consistent

tone that stretches from clean radio pop-rock to an edgier, country-inspired bar-room sound. The album's few speedy, high-tone guitar solos are a shout-out to Tomatuk's metal influences and match the rock-n-roll chords that are present throughout. The lack of an acoustic or key-driven ballad on the record is a disappointing omission, as Sutherland's driving Rob Thomas-like vocals and thoughtful lyrical melodies could easily carry a track on their own. Although the songs on the album cover a variety of themes, the writing of standout track *Indian in Disguise* was an exceptionally personal experience for Sutherland.

"When I wrote *Indian in Disguise*, it was about me as a First Nations individual making his way through society and feeling like I was being told to be something that I'm not," said Sutherland, who is also a paramedic and the Chief Operations Officer for economic development in his community. "I'm lucky enough to be proud of my career and my work as a musician but a lot of the time I

just want to go back to my roots on the land with my family."

Sutherland's work in Attawapiskat and his commitment to the community through his creative work have not gone unnoticed by his neighbours.

"Like many First Nations, my community has had to deal with so many issues over the past few decades," said columnist and Attawapiskat resident Xavier Kataquapit. "Adrian is proof that strong connections to our traditions and culture produce positive results."

After making their Quebec debut on August 23 in Eastmain, Midnight Shine is looking to expand their fan base in Eeyou Istchee with a performance in Waskaganish in late September followed by a possible October show in Oujé-Bougoumou. Sutherland says the logistics of working as a band in the North are challenging, but hopes to perform in as many Cree communities as possible and inspire young First Nations musicians from across James Bay to let their talents shine.



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On the shelf

A Library and Archives Canada source says the feds are stalling the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by cutting research funds

by Jesse Staniforth

An employee of Library and Archives Canada has told the Nation that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) is being strangled by a lack of funding. Speaking on the condition of anonymity, the LAC worker said the work of the commission is unlikely to be completed by deadline.

"It's unlikely we will ever have enough resources – in terms of space or staff – to do the work in the timeframe [the Truth and Reconciliation Commission] wants," said the source.

This, says the LAC employee, is at the heart of the conflict between the TRC and the federal government over access to the 3.5 million documents related to Indian Residential Schools in the government's archives. In January, an Ontario Superior Court judge ordered the government to "provide all relevant documents to the TRC unlimited by where the documents are located within the government of Canada."

Rejecting government arguments that TRC investigators should find the documents themselves, the judge also ruled that the process of finding and organizing documents within Library and Archives Canada should not be imposed on the TRC given the limits of its budget and the time it has been allotted.

But it might be too little too late. In August, the TRC was able to access the archives for the first time, less than one year before the scheduled end of its mandate. Library and Archives Canada has previously stated that the cost to assemble all the documents related to Indian Residential Schools required for the TRC could be \$40-million or more, and would require about a decade of archival work. The residential schools records are enormous and unsorted. Meanwhile, adds the LAC employee, the organization is underfunded and still



reeling from its time under a director who resigned in disgrace last May.

"I adore the TRC and want them to do wonderful things," said the LAC employee. But the TRC is demanding a job within a deadline that is impossible for the LAC to meet. The commission is asking for "tens of thousands" of containers, each containing hundreds of documents. And much of that material must still be cleared by the slow and bureaucratic Access to Information Program (ATIP) before it can be released.

"All government records that are textual come in here automatically closed," the employee noted. "So if you want them open, you have to ATIP them. It's not usually a huge issue, unless for example a particular group like the TRC wants access to thousands and thousands of containers that are all still closed."

Library and Archives Canada has for several years been shaken by controversy. Between 2009 and this past May, LAC was directed by former Librarian and Archivist of Canada Daniel J. Caron, who was frequently accused of mismanagement. Caron resigned after it was

revealed he had billed over \$4,000 for personal Spanish lessons.

During Caron's tenure, in 2012, the federal government cut LAC's operating budget by \$9.6 million, which led the LAC to lay off 430 employees –20% of its workforce. Another 200 people were to be let go over the next two years. A series of organizations, led by the Canadian Library Association and the Association of Canadian Archivists, protested the savage cuts to Canada's ability to preserve its history.

Shortly before his resignation this spring, Caron issued employees a new Code of Conduct. The controversial document imposed on employees a "duty of loyalty to their employer, the Government of Canada [...] to help the duly elected government, under law, to serve the public interest and implement government policies and ministerial decisions."

The code also cautioned LAC employees to refrain from any criticism of LAC in any forum, public or semi-private under threat of disciplinary action. It also described as "high risk to LAC" activities by highly educated LAC

employees that included teaching, speaking or attending conferences on their own time.

The code led to charges that the Harper government was muzzling researchers and archivists. Some journalists denounced the pressure on employees to protect LAC bureaucracy and public image at the expense of the purpose LAC was created to serve – like the TRC. Under this code of conduct, the anonymous LAC employee could face disciplinary action simply for

Though the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement was signed in 2006, it took four years for the federal government to task Aboriginal and Northern Development department with handling the TRC's demand for "all relevant" documents promised by the agreement. Since then, the department and the TRC have constantly argued about what constitutes "relevant" documents, who was responsible for finding them, and how they should be delivered.

IN 2012, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CUT LAC'S OPERATING BUDGET BY \$9.6 MILLION, WHICH LED THE LAC TO LAY OFF 430 EMPLOYEES –20% OF ITS WORKFORCE. ANOTHER 200 PEOPLE WERE TO BE LET GO OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

describing the state of the organization to the Nation.

"There are all kinds of issues that have been problems in the ways we've always worked here," said the LAC employee. "These aren't just new problems that have come up since the cuts, and the reorganizations that have taken place since the cuts – though they certainly didn't help."

The employee says that since Caron's resignation, there have been noticeable improvements within the organization, but "there's so much work to be done. Not just on the TRC – everywhere."

This is what January's court decision was supposed to clear up. As the clock ticks down on the TRC's mandate, however, the funding required to fulfill it has been painstakingly slow to appear.

"They promised us a certain amount of money to help us with the TRC – to support work and research – then, of course, we didn't get it for a long time," the LAC employee said. "We had to start because there was pressure from TRC, and because we wanted to get started. We knew what we had to do, so we basically started without funding. We knew there was an insane amount of work and that there was no way that

we'd be able to meet the deadlines that they had set in place initially, or even the revised ones."

The TRC's goals are very difficult to meet, says the LAC source, implying that TRC organizers had little idea of the LAC's capacity to deliver the information they've requested in the time-frame allowed. LAC, says the source, is underfunded, disorganized and simply incapable of doing what the TRC wants it to.

"We tried to get started doing what we could, just with the people that are here, and that's pretty much how we're still operating," the source said, noting that LAC recently put out a call to hire a archivists to handle TRC materials. "Bear in mind that the TRC started in 2011, and the funding was finally approved last year. It's been over a year, and we just put the call out now."

The picture the LAC employee paints is sombre. More difficult still, the employee said, is LAC staff understand the importance of the TRC and want to deliver the material the commission needs in order to help survivors access all possible information.

"I so want people to understand what's going on inside LAC," said the source, "because we're getting slammed – it's a lack of time, lack of resources, lack of space, staff, everything. It goes beyond just the standard government stuff because of the layoffs and [organizational changes instituted by Caron]. We are trying to meet the needs of the TRC. I wish people understood that we are trying."



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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

The honour of a name

by Xavier Kataquapit

First Nation people are very enthusiastic when it comes to names. We name children these days in meaningful ways to honour the land, animal life and even the heavens. For example, my brother Joe named one of his boys Orion. A creative name that my brother Anthony gave to his son was Ekwan, the name of a major river that is important to our community in Attawapiskat. Many of my relatives have named their young ones Sky, Storm and Ocean, to mention a few.

For Native people names have great meaning and often my people attend traditional ceremonies to receive an Aboriginal name. These naming ceremonies are ancient and relate more to who a person is at their core. Medicine people and Elders are most often involved in helping a person find their name.

However, many First Nation people up the James and Hudson Bay coasts have been taking their names at the direction of Europeans and are influenced by the new religions brought to my people. For instance, my name, Xavier, was given to me in honour of my grandfather. He was named by one of the early Roman Catholic missionaries who worked up the coast. Many of the people I know back home in Attawapiskat and other communities up north have names like Joseph, Anthony, Paul, Mary and Theresa. These names come out of our contact with the church. My late father was named Marius, which has its roots in ancient Rome.

We have our own slant on these Christian names as they are pronounced in the Cree language as Joojep for Joseph, Antwen for Anthony, Many for Mary and Sapiyeh for Xavier just to give you an idea. Non-Native people find this very amusing and comical but it is natural for us. Of course, because we Cree are so humorous we often have nicknames for people depending on specific instances that were noted in their early lives. Often these people with nicknames are never greeted by anyone with this name but they are known among family and friends more by their nickname than the one on their birth certificate. Sometimes these nicknames, although funny, are not so kind or sensitive.

I never really thought about how important names are in handing them down in families until recently. My friends Kathryn and Marc Renaud of Timmins announced they had named their newborn girl Emily Dawn after Kathryn's aunt Emily McGrath and her grandfather Don Paquette. On hearing of this, many others and I were moved with much emotion. The idea that a little girl was going to be growing up and carrying the name of two wonderful, strong and kind people made an impact on me.

Emily, mother of my best friend Mike, took me under her wing like a mother when I moved south to face the big world and all of its challenges. She was so sweet, kind and intelligent and helped me more than she could ever know. Both she and Don have passed away but their friendship is still in my thoughts. They were positive influences in my life with a move from a remote First Nation to the south. Don and his friend Bernadette were some of the first older friends that reached out to make me feel at home and they encouraged me to go and see as much of the world as I could. They were world travellers and entertained me for hours with their stories of far away places.

Many times in my day a memory or teaching given to me by Emily or Don helps me in some way with a challenge or obstacle. Their spirits are strong ones and they linger in the minds of their family members and friends. More than that, because of the thoughtfulness of Kathryn and Marc Renaud we will all have the pleasure and satisfaction of watching Emily Dawn make her way in the world in the footsteps of two beautiful trailblazers.



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Agence canadienne
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Public Notice

Quebec Lithium Spodumene Mine Project — Public Comments Invited

September 3, 2013 — The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency is conducting a comprehensive study type environmental assessment of the Quebec Lithium Spodumene Mine Project located in Quebec. The Agency invites the public to comment on the potential environmental effects of the project and the proposed measures to prevent or mitigate those effects as described in a summary of the proponent's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Quebec Lithium Inc. mining company is proposing the construction, operation, and decommissioning of an open-pit spodumene mine with a daily extraction rate of 3,800 tonnes. The Quebec Lithium mine property is located approximately 60 kilometres north of Val-d'Or and 38 kilometres southeast of Amos, in Quebec.



Written comments must be submitted by **October 3, 2013** to:

Quebec Lithium Spodumene Mine Project
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
901-1550 D'Estimauville Avenue
Québec, QC G1J 0C1
Telephone: 418-649-6444
Fax: 418-649-6443
E-mail: QuebecLithium@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

To view the summary of the EIS or for more information, visit the Agency's website at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca (registry reference number 59158). All comments received will be considered public.

Copies of the summary of the EIS are also available for viewing at the following locations:

Édifice de la maison de la culture
222 First Avenue East
Amos, Quebec

Bureau du développement
socioéconomique
55 Migwan Road
Pikogan, Quebec

Barraute Municipal Library
660 First Street West
Barraute, Quebec

Conseil de la Nation Anishenabe
du Lac Simon— Natural
Resources Department
1026 Cicip Boulevard
Lac Simon, Quebec

This project is being assessed using a science-based approach under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

Following this comment period, the Agency will prepare a Comprehensive Study Report, setting out its conclusions on the environmental effects, the proposed mitigation measures, and the significance of any remaining adverse environmental effects. A public comment period on the Comprehensive Study Report will be announced later.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meetings in Mississauga: Alcoholics Anonymous, Tuesday's Hope Meeting, are at 7PM at the Mamou-Wechidow Building Amisk Street. **Alanon Meetings** are on Tuesdays as well at 7PM at the Mamou-Wechidow Building Amisk Street. **Alateen Meetings** are on Mondays at 3:30PM at the Reception Centre 282 Main Street. These meetings are all open meetings.

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Cultural Manual for Foster and Adoptive parents of Aboriginal Children, launched at the last Gathering of the NETWORK on October 3... CHECK IT OUT! www.reseautlnetwork.com/eng/Portals/5/Cultural%20Manual.pdf

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(www.kidshelpphone.ca)

Youth Helpline: 1-800-263-2266 (www.teljeunes.com)

Parents' Helpline: 1-800-361-5085

(www.parenthelpline.ca)

Missing Children's Network: They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared.
514-843-4333

(www.enfant-retourquebec.ca)

Drug Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626

(www.drogue-aiderreference.qc.ca)

Gambling Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626

(www.info-reference.qc.ca)

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence:

1-800-363-9010

(www.sosviolenceconjugale.com)

Health and Sexuality Resources Center: 1-888-855-7432
(Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) (www.criss.org)

Gay Helpline: 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal: 1-866-403-4688
(www.nwsm.info)

Suicide Action Québec:

1-866-277-3553

(www.suicide-quebec.net)

Residential School Survivors: A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources

Concordia University, Montreal:

The Centre for Native Education has changed its name to the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre (ASRC). The new name is inclusive of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis students the centre serves and recognizes its role as a resource for the Concordia community. For any further details contact: aboriginalcentre@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424 ext. 7327.

If you are an artist who does painting, carving (wood, bone, soapstone, etc.), traditional items (moccasins, snowshoes, beading, etc.) and more- contact Will Nicholls at 514-272-3077 or email: nation@beesum-communications.com for furthering your career.

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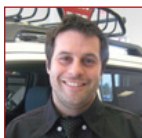


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IYUU COMPANII TIPAACHIMUUN

A presentation of The Board of Compensation and the Cree Regional Economic Enterprises Company



Job opportunities with CREECO/BOC



In March of 2012, CREECO created an alliance with Dumas Contracting Limited. They provide mining and energy services to communities across Canada. Part of their mandate is to train and employ aboriginal workers from the areas where their mining projects are done. And we all know that mining has become an important industry in Eeyou Istchee.

Wachiya. Let's talk about a few job opportunities available now with CREECO/Dumas Mining.

We have two job posting now at CREECO/Dumas. These jobs are for Servicemen, both above and below ground. A license for explosives is required for either job. For the underground serviceman, these individuals will have what's called Underground Modular Training in their first six months on the job.

Can you explain what that is?

FMTM, or Formation Modulaire du Travailleur Minier, is a training program created to promote a safer workplace in the mines and it is an effective training program. The modules include health and safety, communication, and mining equipment training among other things. These specialized skills are learned on-the-job. Every month or so they start a new module so usually by the end of six months they are fully qualified and certified.

Why and how does someone get a license to work with explosives?

There is a government policy called the "Act Respecting Explosives" with the goal to make the industry safer. Companies and its workers must apply for permits to handle and use explosives. The application form for a General Explosives Permit can be printed from the Surete du Quebec website. Applicants should go to sq.gouv.qc.ca, click on the tab/heading "Service en ligne", then "explosifs", then from that page click on "formulaires". Finally, on the English list of forms, it is called the Application for a General Explosives Permit - Individual, form SQ-3106A.

What is the application process for getting this permit?

It's the same as applying for a government-issued card. The person applying for the explosives permit has to send the application with other pieces of identification: 2 passport-style pictures, photocopies of 2 pieces of identification such as a health insurance card, passport, driver's license, birth certificate or an explosives permit they already have. There is also a payment of \$37 due. A money order is made out to the Ministre des Finances du Quebec. This all gets sent to a Surete du Quebec office. If anyone has questions about it they can call the Surete's Montreal office at 514-598-4584.

What are some of the things Servicemen do?

The underground serviceman works with specialized equipment, keeps the work area clean and safe for all workers, and handles explosives. They transport other workers to and from the job site.

The above ground serviceman assembles and transports the explosives as well as ensures a safe working environment for the crew.

Both positions are for 12 hour shifts and a 7/7 schedule which is 7 consecutive days of work, 7 days off.

Where are these jobs?

Right now they are hiring servicemen for the Eleanore Goldcorp project near Eastmain and Wemindji. Interviews for these jobs are starting now.

How does someone apply for a job with CREECO/Dumas Mining?

They can fax the office at 819-874-0793 or email hrquebec@dumasmining.com. The phone number at the Val-d'Or office is 819-874-0435.

Also, I see that there is a job opportunity in the CRA-BOC?

Yes there is. The position is for an Assistant to the Insurance Liaison Officer. This full-time job is located in Ouje-Bougoumou. It will be officially posted soon and the hiring will be done in October.

What are the job requirements?

They must have a high school diploma to apply. A CEGEP diploma in administration would be an asset but experience also counts. General office work includes using Word and Excel. They have to be fluent in spoken and written English. Cree and/or French is also important since this person will be required to travel to the Cree communities on occasion.

And what will this person be doing as the Assistant?

They will be doing office work such as typing, filing and data entry. This person will be preparing notices and agendas for meetings and will take minutes when they are held. The Assistant will be making travel arrangements for other staff members and keeping an updated contact list for the CCDIP.

Please go to the CREECO.ca website for more information about this job, or visit the CHRD website.

Any there other CREECO companies with job openings right now?

No, but Air Creebec always welcomes resumes. They sometimes need part-time counter agents, and occasionally look for full-time flight attendants and pilots to be based in Montreal and Timmins. Please visit the Air Creebec website or call 819-825-8355 in Val-d'Or for more info.

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